(d) Government of India constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna. Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Devleopment Research. Mumbai to look into the problems of agricultural indebtedness in its totality and to suggest measures to provide relief to the farmers. The Expert Group has submitted its report to the Government in July, 2007 and the government has initiated the process of consultation on its recommendations.

Import of wheat

†*7. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from where wheat is being imported by Government to meet the shortage of wheat in the country along with the quantity being imported from each country;

(b) the rate of wheat being imported;

(c) the reasons for not purchasing wheat from Pakistan and Australia;

(d) whether Government would ensure that the wheat being imported from America is free of weeds; and

(e) the quantity of wheat required for the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PA WAR): (a) to (c) Supplier-wise details of origin of wheat quoted and quantities offered are given below:

Name of Supplier	Country of Origin of Wheat	Quantity (+/-5%) in Lakh Tons
TOEPFER international. Asia, Singapore	Canada	2.56
CARGILL international. S.A., Singapore	Any country	1.30
RIAS Trading S.A.. Switzerland	Russia	125
GRAND TOTAL:		5.11

The weighted average price of wheat is USS 325.59 per ton, C & F(FO). Wheat of any country is eligible for import as per tender specifications and conditions.

(d) Only wheat meeting phytosanitary conditions will be allowed to be imported into the country.

(c) It is difficult to make an accurate estimate of demand for wheat for 2007-08. Estimates made by various agencies vary between 71 and 76 million tons. The. demand

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for wheat for the Public Distribution System, Welfare Schemes and Open Market Sales is estimated at 150 lakh tons.

Insecticides banned or under review

†*8. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some insecticides have been banned in the country and some others have been put into the "Review List";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that inspite of the ban the insecticides are being sold in the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a policy in this regard to prevent the adverse effects of insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty five insecticides and their formulations and four insecticide formulations are banned for import, manufacture and use in the country. In addition, two insecticides have been banned for use in the country except their manufacture for export. Restriction has been imposed on use of nine insecticides. The list of insecticides banned and restricted is given in the Statement *(See* below).

The usage of thirty seven insecticides has been reviewed by an Expert Group constituted by the Registration Committee, under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The recommendations of the Expert Group regarding twenty one pesticides have been accepted by the Government. Consequently, the use of Fenitrothion and Fenthion is banned in agriculture except for locust control in scheduled desert area and public health and the use of Diazinon has been banned in agriculture except for household purposes. The use of Metoxuron has also been withdrawn. The recommendations regarding remaining pesticides are under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Government does not have any report regarding sale of banned pesticides.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Insecticides Act, 1968, is already in place which lays down a comprehensive policy to prevent the adverse effects of insecticides. The Act regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to preventing risk to human beings or animals, and for matters connected therewith. The Act, *inter alia,* provides for penal action against, manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious pesticides. Promotion of Integrated Pest Management, a strategy which envisages cultural, mechanical and biological methods of pest control and need based judicious use of pesticides, is also an important constituent of the Government policy. The Central and State Governments also take steps to create awareness among the farmers for safe use of pesticides.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.